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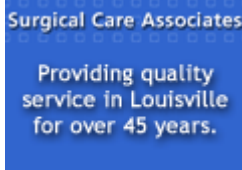
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PHOENIX HILL

Farmers market gets a warm reception

By Sheryl Edelen
sedelen@courier-journal.com
The Courier-Journal

To say that neighborhood residents and business people are excited about the new Phoenix Hill Farmers Market is an understatement.

Just ask Phoenix Hill block watch captain Carol Turner.

"I'm so happy!" Turner said as she entered the market, at 829 E. Market St. just outside the Bodega at Felice delicatessen and market. "We've been talking about something like this for a long time," said the 58-year old. She looked over at a vendor, saying, "I'm just so glad you're here!"

The market, which opened recently and will operate on Tuesdays, features 10 vendors with fruits, vegetables, eggs, free-range meat, goat cheese, flowers, herbs and up to 15 kinds of bread.

According to Cindy Brown-Kinloch, executive director of the Phoenix Hill Association, the idea for a market had bounced around for years. It surfaced as a common interest during the community's participation in Metro Mayor Jerry Abramson's Neighborhood Assessment Process. That effort uses neighborhood surveys and meetings to plan community improvements.

"We caught wind that the East Downtown Business Association was talking about it, that

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the Felice Complex businesses were talking about it and that Dosker Manor was talking about it," Brown-Kinloch said. "We pulled the four groups together in January, and now, in April, we have one. We had pretty strong momentum."

And she has high hopes.

"The site sits right in the middle of four neighborhoods," she said, referring to Phoenix Hill, Irish Hill, Butchertown and a growing downtown neighborhood.

University of Louisville medical student Miranda Coole was willing to travel even farther -- from Old Louisville -- to support local farmers and businesses. Coole said the market's Tuesday afternoon hours (from 3 to 7 p.m.) fit her schedule well.

"I was really surprised. It was easy to find and there was plenty of parking," said the 28-year-old. "And it was busy, but not so crowded that you had trouble getting around."

Reporter Sheryl Edelen can be reached at (502) 582-4621.



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